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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

DOCKET NO. 04 11572 JLT

SUSAN COONEY,)
Plaintiff,)
vs.)
)
HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGY INSTITUTE,)
d/b/a SAYBROOK INSTITUTE and)
MAUREEN O'HARA, Individually,)
Defendants.)
)

AUDIOVISUAL DEPOSITION OF SUSAN COONEY, taken
on behalf of the Saybrook Institute, pursuant to the
Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, before Kristin L.
Tucker, Notary Public and Certified Shorthand Reporter
within and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, at the
Law Offices of Morrison Mahoney LLP, 250 Summer Street,
Boston, Massachusetts, on January 27, 2006, at 9:10
a.m., as follows:

DANILECKI REPORTING
234 Governors Road
Quincy, Massachusetts 02169
(617) 745-9786

1 Q. Setting aside the Saybrook '94/'95 Interim
2 Catalog --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- did Saybrook ever promise you that it
5 would keep you informed of changes in licensing laws
6 specifically?

7 A. When I went out to the orientation and I was
8 supposed to bring my regulations, we met with that
9 person who went over each person's regulations and she
10 said that Massachusetts met the criteria and -- and she
11 said, You're good to go.

12 Q. Is that all she said?

13 A. To the best of my recollection.

14 Q. What else, if anything, did that person say
15 about future changes, if any, that might happen in
16 Massachusetts?

17 A. Nothing that I can recall.

18 Q. Didn't she promise you that -- Didn't she say
19 to you, We are going to track Massachusetts laws and
20 keep you informed?

21 A. Did I say that?

22 MR. MORENBERG: Answer the question.

23 A. No.

24 Q. She never said that?

1 A. No.

2 Q. She never said anything to that effect; is
3 that correct?

4 A. It was 11 years ago. I would say she
5 basically said, You meet the criteria. We'd love to
6 have you come here, and, you know, we understand you
7 want to be a psychologist in Massachusetts and you'll be
8 able to be.

9 Q. That's what she said?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did she say to you that she would, or
12 Saybrook would, monitor the regulations over the years
13 that you would be at Saybrook and keep you informed?

14 A. It was an understanding.

15 Q. I didn't -- I know you -- Did she say that?

16 A. Did she specifically? I don't recall.

17 Q. She never said that as best you can recall,
18 correct?

19 A. I can't recall. It was a long time ago. I
20 can't recall specific conversation. The tone was
21 that --

22 Q. I'm not interested --

23 A. -- they would be on top of it.

24 Q. I'm not interested in the tone. I'm

1 interested in, is it your sworn testimony that the
2 person you met with in the fall of 1995 to go over
3 these -- the Massachusetts regulations never promised
4 you that Saybrook would stay up on changes, future
5 changes in Massachusetts regulations and inform you of
6 any? Do you want the question --

7 A. I just -- I can't recall specifically. I
8 can't say yes to that, and I can't say no to that.

9 Q. So you have no --

10 A. The way you've placed the question, I can't.

11 Q. You have no clear recollection that that
12 person told you that Saybrook would stay on top of
13 future changes in Mass. law and keep you informed,
14 correct?

15 A. My understanding -- And I'm supposed to say
16 yes or no? I can't say them to that.

17 MR. VARTAIN: I'm gonna have the
18 question read back, because I want no complications
19 here. Would you like that?

20 THE WITNESS: Fine.

21 (Question read.)

22 A. Not correct.

23 Q. So you do have a clear recollection?

24 A. Not a clear recollection, but I have a -- I

1 cannot give you her exact words, but I can tell you that
2 the conversation went as such, that she was saying that
3 I was -- met the criteria, that Massachusetts met the
4 criteria, and that they work hand-in-hand with you and
5 that we were a team, was the word she used, and that
6 they would -- that I was going to pay them money and
7 that I was going to be able to get my license in
8 Massachusetts.

9 And, therefore, with the things that I saw in
10 the catalog saying that they were committed to assisting
11 students and that they were part of the CDPP and would
12 be monitoring things, that I was quite safe to proceed
13 and that they would alert me if there were any changes.

14 Q. Where did it say in the catalog that they
15 would alert you to any changes? It never specifically
16 said that.

17 A. Well, they're specifically saying we're
18 committed to assisting students and we monitor what's
19 going on. I would think that -- I would have thought
20 that if they knew of a change, that they would have
21 passed it on as opposed to not passing it on.

22 Q. Does it say specifically anywhere in the
23 catalog that Saybrook would give you information about
24 changes in Mass. law?

1 A. I believe it says something in the bulletin
2 about they would let you know about changes.

3 Q. We've already talked about that you don't
4 have a specific recollection of the bulletin; is that
5 correct?

6 A. Of anything specific. You're saying, do you
7 have a direct memory of sitting down with the bulletin.
8 I don't. But I believe there was something mentioned in
9 there.

10 Q. And that's something you have no specific
11 recollection of, correct?

12 A. It's a general recollection.

13 Q. What's the difference between a general
14 recollection --

15 A. You taught me. You said earlier, that's not
16 specific. That's just general. One is more detailed.

17 Q. Do you have -- What's -- Do you have a date
18 or -- that you read this in the bulletin?

19 A. That would be specific, no.

20 Q. Do you have a year?

21 A. I don't. It's a decade ago.

22 Q. Coming back to the catalog, do you have --
23 Did you have that catalog with you when you went out to
24 Saybrook in 1995?

1 A. I'm pretty sure I did.

2 Q. You did. Okay. Let's come back to the
3 conversation with the person in 1995 when you were going
4 over the regs.

5 A. Um-huh.

6 Q. Did she say to you that Saybrook would inform
7 you of any changes in Mass. law?

8 A. She said that they would inform us of any
9 changes. Specific to Mass. law, she did not say. They
10 would inform us. They would keep on top of everything.

11 Q. Did she say that?

12 A. She said that they were going to work
13 hand-in-hand with us in a team and that as it stands,
14 come on board, I can get my psychology license in
15 Massachusetts.

16 Q. She guaranteed you that you could get your
17 psychology license?

18 MR. MORENBERG: Objection.

19 A. She said that.

20 Q. She said that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did you take any notes of that conversation?

23 A. No.

24 Q. You told me before that this is all 11 years